AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from among a plurality of programs based on a plurality of criteria and a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria are different, wherein the plurality of criteria comprises a category criteria, an age criteria, a difference criteria, and an expected savings criteria, wherein the category criteria comprises a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong, wherein the age criteria comprises an age of the plurality of programs, wherein the difference criteria comprises a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, wherein the expected savings criteria comprises an expected savings from compressing the plurality of programs, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the calculating further comprises

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the importance of the respective category criteria divided by the ranking of the respective category,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the age of the respective program divided by the importance of the age criteria,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the difference for the respective program divided by the importance of the difference criteria, and

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the expected savings for the respective program divided by the importance of the expected savings criteria,

wherein the selecting further comprises selecting the first program with a highest respective score; and

changing a compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

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2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting, from among the plurality of programs with the highest score, the first program with a largest of the expected savings.~~selecting the first program based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs and the importance of a category criteria.~~

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the compression level changed.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.~~wherein the selecting further comprises: selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.~~

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs.~~selecting further comprises: selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a plurality of criteria and a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria are different, wherein the plurality of criteria comprises a category criteria, an age criteria, a difference

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criteria, and an expected savings criteria, wherein the category criteria comprises a
ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong, wherein the
age criteria comprises an age of the plurality of programs, wherein the difference criteria
comprises a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs
and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, wherein the expected
savings criteria comprises an expected savings from compressing the plurality of
programs, wherein the means for selecting further comprises means for calculating a
score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the
respective importance if a threshold is exceeded, wherein the means for calculating
further comprises

          means for adding to the score for the respective program a result of the
importance of the respective category criteria divided by the ranking of the
respective category,

          means for adding to the score for the respective program a result of the age
of the respective program divided by the importance of the age criteria,

          means for adding to the score for the respective program a result of the
difference for the respective program divided by the importance of the difference
criteria, and

          means for adding to the score for the respective program a result of the
expected savings for the respective program divided by the importance of the
expected savings criteria,

          wherein the means for selecting further comprises means for selecting the first
program with a highest respective score~~wherein one of the plurality of criteria comprises
a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs~~; and

          means for changing a compression level of the first program, wherein the
changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes
an unrecoverable loss of data.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting
further comprises:

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means for selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the compression level changed.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the <u>ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs.</u><s>means for selecting further comprises:</s>

<s>means for selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.</s>

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, <u>further comprising:</u>

<u>means for marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.</u><s>wherein the means for selecting further comprises:</s>

<s>means for selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.</s>

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space in the storage among the plurality of programs.

12. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria<u>, wherein the respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria are different, wherein the plurality of criteria comprises a category criteria, an age criteria, a difference criteria, and an expected savings criteria, wherein the category criteria comprises a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs</u>

belong, wherein the age criteria comprises an age of the plurality of programs, wherein the difference criteria comprises a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, wherein the expected savings criteria comprises an expected savings from compressing the plurality of programs, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the calculating further comprises

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the importance of the respective category criteria divided by the ranking of the respective category,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the age of the respective program divided by the importance of the age criteria,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the difference for the respective program divided by the importance of the difference criteria, and

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the expected savings for the respective program divided by the importance of the expected savings criteria,

wherein the selecting further comprises selecting the first program with a highest respective score~~wherein one of the plurality of criteria comprises a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong~~; and

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the compression level changed.~~selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.~~

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14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u>

<u>marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.</u> ~~wherein the selecting further comprises:~~

~~selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression~~ ~~level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the~~ ~~importance of a difference criteria.~~

15. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

16. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the ranking comprises an initial compression level of the first program.

17. (Currently amended) A digital video recorder comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, <u>wherein the respective importance of each of the</u> <u>plurality of criteria are different, wherein the plurality of criteria comprises a</u> <u>category criteria, an age criteria, a difference criteria, and an expected savings</u> <u>criteria, wherein the category criteria comprises a ranking of a plurality of</u> <u>categories to which the plurality of programs belong, wherein the age criteria</u> <u>comprises an age of the plurality of programs, wherein the difference criteria</u>

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comprises a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, wherein the expected savings criteria comprises an expected savings from compressing the plurality of programs, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the calculating further comprises

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the importance of the respective category criteria divided by the ranking of the respective category,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the age of the respective program divided by the importance of the age criteria,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the difference for the respective program divided by the importance of the difference criteria, and

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the expected savings for the respective program divided by the importance of the expected savings criteria,

wherein the selecting further comprises selecting the first program with a highest respective score wherein the plurality of criteria comprise a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong and an age of the plurality of programs, and

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the selecting further comprises:

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selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

20. (Previously presented) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs.

21. (Previously presented) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the instructions further comprise:

marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria are different, wherein the plurality of criteria comprises a category criteria, an age criteria, a difference criteria, and an expected savings criteria, wherein the category criteria comprises a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong, wherein the age criteria comprises an age of the plurality of programs, wherein the difference criteria comprises a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, wherein the expected savings criteria comprises an expected savings from compressing the plurality of programs, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the plurality of criteria comprise a ranking of a

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~~plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong, an age of the plurality of programs, and a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs,~~ wherein the calculating further comprises

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the importance of the respective category criteria divided by the ranking of the respective category,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the age of the respective program divided by the importance of the age criteria,

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the difference for the respective program divided by the importance of the difference criteria, and

adding to the score for the respective program a result of the expected savings for the respective program divided by the importance of the expected savings criteria,

wherein the selecting further comprises selecting the first program with a highest respective score, and

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

23. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

24. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs.

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25. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:

    marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.

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